

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04229 101545Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-20

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R 101500Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1504

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, MT, NATO

SUBJECT: SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 1791 (NOTAL)

1. THE FIVE ALLIES MAKING SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO MALTA DURING 1973 HAVE EXPLICITLY AGREED THAT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE "SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION" TO SUCH PAYMENTS IN FUTURE YEARS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE SPECIAL PAYMENTS.

2. IT IS ALSO TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT MINTOFF EXPECTS THE SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO CONTINUE, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO BREATHE ANOTHER "CRISIS" IF THE CONTRIBUTORS ELECT NOT TO MAKE SPECIAL PAYMENTS IN 1974.

3. WE AGREE THE CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD/ DECIDE NOT, IN A NON-CRISIS ATMOSPHERE, WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE SPECIAL PAYMENTS IN 1974, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 04229 101545Z

REPEAT 1974. FURTHER, THERE SHOULD BE A FIRM UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DECISION, IF NEGATIVE, IS FINAL AND NOT TO BE ABANDONED IN THE FACES OF MINTOFF PRESSURE. (THIS UNDERSTANDING WOULD OF COURSE BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF ANY ALLY TO

OFFER WHATEVER IT WANTS TO MALA OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE
UK-MALTA BASE AGREEMENT.)

3. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO LET OTHER ALLIES RE-OPEN THE
SPECIAL PAYMENTS QUESTION, PARTICULARLY SINCE U.S. SPECIAL
PAYMENT IN OCTOBER WILL BE LOWER AND FRG SPECIAL PAYMENT
HIGHER THAN COULD BE FORESEEN LAST JANUARY. ALSO, WE WOULD BE IN
A BETTER TACTICAL POSITION TO SHIFT TO ANOTHER ALLY THE DE
FACTO RULE AS SPOKESMAN FOR OR CHANNEL TO THE FIVE. (OUR
CANIDATE FOR THIS ROLE WOULD BE THE FRG, THROUGH ITS RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR AT VALLETTA, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT BONN TO
RESIST OR EVEN REFUSE.)

4. IN THE INTERESTS OF ADDRESSING THE ISSUES AND MAKING FINAL
DECISIONS SOON, HOWEVER, WE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS: A) TO CALL FOR
A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIVE PLUS THE UK; B) TO SET
FORTH U.S.PRELIMINARY VIEWS OR FINAL DECISION REGARDING SPECIAL
PAYMENTS IN 1974 AND TO ELICIT VIEWS OF OTHERS; C) TO STATE
WHETHER OR NOT U.S. IS WILLING TO CONTINUE (AT LEAST IN OCTOBER) TO
ACT AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOM ON SPECIAL PAYMENTS.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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